

Les diferentes formes de l'Arsenicisme et en particulier de l'Arsenicisme provenant de l'habitation on des objets domestiques—
P. Karl Petreu. Masson et Cie, Editeurs. Libraires de l'Academie de Medecin, 120 Boul. St. Germain, Paris, 1926. 128 pp. Price, \$.48.

As a result of a "psychic epidemic" of arsenicalism, the Swedish Government appointed a commission to study the entire question of chronic arsenic poisoning with especial reference to the possibility of such poisoning from wall papers, paintings, etc., in the home.

In a study of the cases reported it is noted that: The morbid symptoms may often be manifest in the course of 3 months following the beginning of exposure, and in many cases at least, within 6 months. The majority are manifest within 1 year. Usually symptoms disappear within 6 months, or at most 1 year after termination of exposure to a known arsenical source—this time is shorter in the non-doubtful cases than in the doubtful.

Oil paintings are considered as the source of poisoning in 70 per cent of the doubtful groups, but only 18 per cent of the positive cases. Wall papers and paints are incriminated in 20 per cent of the doubtful cases and 73 per cent of the positives.

The burden of proof in the reports as received is not sufficient to say that individuals contract arsenic poisoning from oil paints or paper containing arsenical pigment.

The final conclusions of the report are that it is possible to develop chronic arsenic poisoning from exposure to domestic objects such as painted walls and wall papers, etc., though many of the reported cases were purely psychic.

The report is an excellent summary and discussion of the available literature of arsenic poisoning, and of the experimental work of the members of the commission, as well as an exhaustive critical review of the evidence obtained from their questionnaire.

HENRY FIELD SMYTH

Pan American Health Office—The Health Office of the Pan American Union in Washington presented as the main article of their April Bulletin a complete translation into Spanish of the *Report of the Committee on Standard Regulations for the Control of Communicable Diseases* of the American Public Health Association.

This is a revision of the report which first appeared in *Public Health Reports*, October 12,

1917, which was published as *Public Health Bulletin* of December 17, 1926, and in the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH* for March, 1927. It is now issued in vest pocket edition by the American Public Health Association. The bulletin also presented to South American readers a Spanish résumé of the annual report of the Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service for the year ending June 30, 1926.—*Boletin de la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana*, Abril de 1927.

The Mother and Unborn Child—A Little Book of Information and Advice for the Prospective Mother—By Samuel Raynor Meaker, Associate Professor of Gynecology, Boston University School of Medicine. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1927. 198 pp. Price, \$2.50.

This excellent little book strikes a happy medium, in being neither too elementary nor too technical. It ought easily to hold its own among the many useful prenatal guide books now available. It has the advantage of presenting some important points not included in the others. The outline with illustrations of abdominal exercises for the lying-in mother is most acceptable and something for which we have vainly searched.

Cod liver oil and sunshine treatments for pregnant mothers and young babies are not mentioned, whether purposely or because the author may feel it unnecessary is not obvious. Sticking to the old-fashioned advice to modern mothers to wear high necked, long sleeved, long legged, woolen underwear during pregnancy in cold weather is, of course, quaint in these days of few and brief clothes. It is, besides, really impractical for our large number of city mothers living in overheated houses. The diet suggestions are most sensible and not too extensive, and the chapter on nursing and care of the baby are full of helpful suggestions.

Breast feeding is duly emphasized but the use of the breast pump in deficiency of breast milk and the reference made (presumably) to the more modern method of emptying the breast by manual expression as a "special sort of massage," are perhaps unfortunate. Those having the best success with manual expression are particularly anxious to avoid suggesting the breast pump and breast massage to mothers, as they feel that these things should be religiously avoided.

This little book is pleasingly gotten up by the Waverly Press. SUSAN M. COFFIN